



He said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.” And again he said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened” (Luke 13:18–21).

God uses small things to do **big** stuff.

Jesus talks about the Kingdom a lot, but never defined it. Instead He gave us examples and told stories of what it was like.

Jesus asks a question: What is the kingdom of God like? It's like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a huge tree. It's like a tiny bit of yeast that makes enough bread to feed 100 people. Jesus wasn't teaching about farming or baking. He was revealing a truth of the kingdom of God. When it comes to spiritual things, God uses small things to do **big** stuff.

Opening Illustration: a large vase filled with water. Drops of food coloring dropped in at different intervals.

What can God do with your one drop? Alot! Your small acts today touched peoples lives. What about 1,200 drops? There are over 2 billion Christians in the world today. We can make a difference.

God uses small things to do **big** stuff.

Consider Abraham. God takes a nomad with a barren wife and says, “I will bless you and ALL the earth will be blessed through you.” A nation is born through Abraham's small step of faith.

Consider Moses. He gave God all kinds of excuses why he was unfit to talk with Pharaoh. Through several small but scary acts of confronting the Pharaoh, God's people are rescued.

Consider David. He was the runt of the litter, a shepherd boy who kills Goliath with a sling and becomes the most famous king of Israel.

Consider Jesus. He was not born to the famous or rich, but to a poor and seemingly unimportant family. When Jesus wanted to feed 5,000 he uses a young boy's lunch. When Jesus wanted people to give, he wasn't impressed by big gifts but by the widow who gives a penny.

God uses small things to do **big** stuff.

What if...Love Works became more than just a weekend event but a lifestyle led by the Holy Spirit in the lives of the 2,000+ people who attend CPC?

What if...projects were happening throughout the year and not just on one weekend?

What if...CPC developed the reputation in the Bay Area for being “the place you can go” when you are in need?

What if...we send out 2,000 people next year and give 10,000 hours away in community service?

What if...people in our body began coming up on their own with creative and incredible ideas to be the hands and feet of Jesus to hurting people and we were able to fund these initiatives by a small grant?

What if...we began to make an impact in the lives of people affected by modern day slavery right here on the Peninsula?

What if...people began opening up to the Gospel of Jesus Christ because they are seeing our faith in action and begin asking you questions about faith?

What if...we began hearing stories of people who are now fully devoted to Christ and in their testimonies they say “I love Jesus because of Love Works”?

What if...because of the all the state cuts to our public schools we somehow filled the gap and provided music classes, instruments, P.E. instruction, school supplies and offered after-school tutoring all because we love Jesus?

What if...we were invited once a year to meet with the mayors of our cities on the Peninsula to give an update about how we are spending our time and money in the community and saving the city hundreds of thousands of dollars? (By the way, this is happening at the Rock Church in San Diego. The Lead Pastor meets with the mayor of San Diego every year to update him on their church's activities.)

What if...we were lead to lease a warehouse and make it into a distribution center for food, clothing, and supplies? What if it was also the site of a campus of CPC?

What if...our Mercy and Care Ministry were overflowing with volunteers who were visiting the sick, bringing meals to new

families, caring for the elderly, and feeding the homeless throughout the year?

What if we really took Jesus' words seriously? *"Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father"* (John 14:12).

There are hundreds of "What ifs" we could put on this list. I don't know exactly what God is calling you personally to do. But He will show you.

Here's a challenge for us:

Make Love Works a lifestyle led by the Holy Spirit and not just a weekend event.

Consider leading a project next year.

Consider Love Works grants.

Just go do something!

Share with one person this week about your Love Works project and pray for an opportunity to share the Gospel.

Love Works, acts of service and compassion, is the first part of two that brings the Kingdom of God. The second part is the declaration of the Gospel. Invite people to our Easter services!

Listen to these words from Mother Theresa: "I never look at the masses as my responsibility. I look at the individual. I can love only one person at a time. I can feed only one person at a time. Just one, one, one. You get closer to Christ by coming closer to each other. As Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me." So you begin...I begin. I picked up one person—maybe if I didn't pick up that one person I wouldn't have picked up 42,000. The whole work is only a drop in the ocean. But, if I didn't put the drop in, the ocean would be one drop less. Same thing for you, same thing in your family, same thing in the church where you go...just begin..one, one, one."

This manuscript represents the bulk of what was preached at CPC. For further detail, please refer to the audio recording of this sermon.

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